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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

(1629)

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00306 221422Z 9551
ACTION OC5-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ISO-00 CA-01 H-02 L-03 PA-02 ICA-20
JUSE-00 FBIE-00 /050 W
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R 221305Z JAN 79
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8774

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 0306

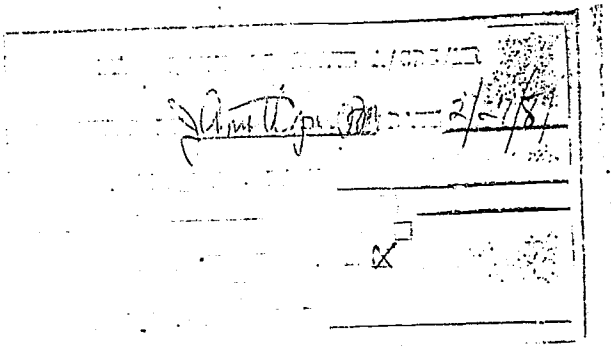
E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: CARR, GY (JONES, STEPHAN) (BEIKMAN, CHARLES) (PEOPLES TEMPLE)
SUBJ: W/W ARRESTS: STEPHAN JONES: CHARLES BEIKMAN

REF: A. 78 GEORGETOWN 4354 B. GEORGETWON 0235

1. PRELIMINARY INQUIRY BEGAN FRIDAY (JAN 19) IN THE CASE OF THE MURDERS OF LINDA SHARON HARRIS (AKA SHARON AMOS) ET AL. ONLY PERSON WHO TESTIFIED WAS POLICE DETECTIVE ASST. SUPERINTENDENT LAM, WHO WAS PRESENT ON BOTH NOV 19 AND NOV 23 WHEN BEIKMAN MADE STATEMENTS TO THE POLICE CONCERNING THE MURDERS. SENIOR COUNSEL MCKAY OBJECTED TO INTRODUCTION OF THE SECOND STATEMENT AS EVIDENCE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS NOT GIVEN FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY. VIR DIRE HEARING THEN BEGAN ON ADMISSIBILITY OF THE STATEMENT.

2. INQUIRY IS SCHEDULED TO RESUME JAN 22.

3. COMMENT: TECHNICALLY, THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY CONDUCTED BY MAGISTRATE CHRISTIAN UNTIL DEC 19 (REF A) UNDER WHICH BEIKMAN ALONE WAS CHARGED HAS BEEN SUSPENDED RATHER THAN CANCELLED. AT FRIDAY'S SESSION, MCKAY NOTED THAT THE ORIGINAL INQUIRY CANNOT BE ADJOURNED SINE DIE, AND OBJECTED TO PROSECUTING COUNSEL'S REQUEST THAT THE INQUIRY BE RESUMED ON DEC 29, 1979. MAGISTRATE PERSAUD THEN SAID THAT A DATE WITHIN A REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME COULD BE SET BUT DID NOT FIX A DATE. UNDER GUYANESE LAW, IF BEIKMAN IS ACQUITTED OF THE JOINT CHARGES HE FACES WITH JONES, OR IF THE CASE DOES NOT GO TO TRIAL, BEIKMAN COULD STILL BE TRIED ALONE ON THE SAME CHARGES, THROUGH RESUMPTION OF THE ORIGINAL INQUIRY.
DWYER



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